United States Environmental Protection Agency
EPA New England
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September 12, 2002

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Mayor Hathaway, City of Pittsfield
Commissioner of Public Works and Utilities, City of Pittsfield
Public Information Repositories

RE: August 2002 Monthly Report
1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action
GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site

Enclosed please find the August 2002 Monthly Report for the 1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action. In accordance with the Consent Decree for the GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is performing the 1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action, with General Electric funding a portion of the project through a cost sharing formula.

The EPA has entered into an agreement with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to assist in the design and construction of the Removal Action. The USACE subsequently awarded a design-construct contract to Weston Solutions, Inc. (Weston). Weston, with several subcontractors, will be performing the design and construction activities for the 1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (413) 236-0969.

Sincerely,

Dean Tagliaferro

Dean Tagliaferro
1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action Project Manager

Enclosures

1. OVERVIEW

During August 2002, Weston, EPA/USACE's prime contractor, continued startup and preconstruction activities along the east bank of Phase 1 of the 1.5 Mile Removal Action. These activities included completion and widening of access roads, completion of the water treatment system pad and secondary containment liner, installation of electrical and telephone conduits, and installation of the electrical transformer vault and the electrical pull box. In addition, Weston continued vibration monitoring of the Lyman Street bridge. Weston's excavation and water treatment subcontractor, Sevenson Environmental Services, began mobilizing construction trailers, equipment, supplies, materials, and personnel to the site.

2. CHRONOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE TASKS PERFORMED

Week of 29 July to 2 August. Weston performed the following work:

- Completed installation and sealing of the water treatment system containment liner.
- Installed geotextile for: 1) widening of Hathaway St. access road to accommodate tire wash pad; and 2) widening of access road at entrance to water treatment system pad area.
- Regraded access road material at the drainage swale crossing to allow access by low-boy trailers.
- Collected coordinates for the as-built locations of the security fence lines, access roads, and the water treatment pad.
- Cleaned and raked Parcel I9-5-13 where some pine trees were removed.
- Installed hay and wood chip mulch at disturbed soil areas including the water treatment pad edges, drainage swale crossing, and access roads.
- Regraded the edges of the drainage swale crossing to prevent wash out and redirected the runoff to the retention structure

- Completed compaction of the access road.
- Applied water for dust control at the access roads and water treatment system pad
- Began setup for installation of underground utilities, installed the transformer vault, and began the utility conduit installation. Work was started at the water treatment system pad location.

Sinopoli Construction, under contract to Weston, performed the following work:

- Completed installation, grading, and rolling of a 6-inch layer of sand on the water treatment system liner.
- Completed widening of the access road entrance at Hathaway St. to allow installation of the tire wash pad.
- Widened the access road from the Hathaway St. entrance to the drainage swale.
- Completed installation of the access road at its southern end.
- Installed 2-inch gravel for widening of the access road at the water treatment pad location.

Week of 5 August to 9 August. Weston performed the following work:

- Continued excavation of the 30-inch trench for installation of the underground utilities (electrical and telephone). The trench sidewalls were sloped back for stability due to the large amount of concrete pieces and loose fill present.
- Installed and glued 6-inch and 2-inch conduits in the trench, backfilled over the conduit with sand to protect them during trench backfilling, marked trench with warning tape, and backfilled trench.

Week of 12 August to 16 August. Weston performed the following work:

- Cleaned up excavation cuttings associated with the utility trench and stockpiled large pieces of concrete along the southern section of the east side access road.

- Raked, seeded, and mulched an area of parcel I9-5-13 where trees had previously been removed.

- Laid out the location of the treatment plant effluent tank based on field measurements provided by Weston's excavation and water treatment subcontractor, Sevenson Environmental Services.

- Seeded and mulched the completed section of the backfilled underground utility trench.

- Completed installation of wood chips along the access road east of the drainage swale.

- Completed installation of utility conduit in trench to the southernmost site fencing.

- EPA/ACOE received voluntary access to the proposed utility easement at parcel I8-23-6 and continued installation of electrical and phone line conduits outside of fence and installed electrical pull box. Installation of the telephone conduit was completed to the Laundromat telephone panel location and installation of the electrical conduit was completed up to the electrical pull box.

- Installed three 12-inch ductile iron pipes across the access road for the water treatment discharge lines.

Sinopoli Construction, under contract to Weston, completed the following:

- Installed and rolled 6-inch layer of gravel at the south end of the water treatment pad and re-rolled the modular tank areas at the water treatment system pad area.

- Assisted layout and installation of the asphalt binder at the Hathaway St. construction entrance. The asphalt was installed from 10 feet onto Hathaway St. to the tire wash pad. A six-inch steel pipe was installed along the Ashley street curb and across Hathaway St. to provide drainage from Ashley St.

Week of 19 August to 23 August. Weston completed the following:

- Continued installation of the electrical conduit from the electrical pull box towards the automatic car wash and backfilled the trench. Laid out new excavation line for installation of the electrical line towards the transformer at the automatic car wash. Excavation of the trench, installation of the conduit, backfilling, and restoration (raking, seeding, and mulching) were completed to within 8 feet of the transformer location. Work will be completed when Western Mass Electric Company disconnects power to the transformer. Installed a total of 702 feet of electrical conduit.

- Completed installation of wood chips for dust control at the south end of the access road.

- Began relocation of equipment and materials stored within the fenced storage area located behind 10 Lyman Street to the warehouse and to Building 65 at the GE plant.

- Installed two, 20-foot sections of 12-inch ductile iron pipe beneath the access road south of the drainage swale. These pipes will be used as a crossing for influent lines from the cell dewatering operation to the water treatment plant.

- Completed the installation of the water treatment system discharge line crossing at the southern fence line gate. Placed wood chips over this area for dust control.

- Installed geotextile and additional gravel at the trailer pad complex next to the water treatment system pad. This area will be used for Weston's sampling equipment decon trailer, currently located at 10 Lyman Street.

Sinopoli Construction, under contract to Sevenson, installed geotextile and gravel for Sevenson's construction trailers.

Sevenson Environmental Services, under contract to Weston, completed the following:

- Began mobilizing personnel, equipment, and material to the site.

- Received, leveled, blocked and tied down a 60 by 12-foot office trailer.

- Received a 36-foot health and safety/break trailer and temporarily staged it at the Lyman Street parking lot on GE property.

Week of 26 August to 30 August. Weston completed the following:

- Continued relocation of equipment and material from the fenced storage area on Lot I9-4-201 to the warehouse and loading dock.

- Performed test of the RTK survey equipment and installed centerline sheet piling layout stakes for cells 2 and 4.

- Installed pull ropes for installation of the phone lines.

Sevenson Environmental Services, under contract to Weston, completed the following:

- Continued mobilization of equipment, materials and personnel. Received 40,000 lbs of granular activated carbon for the water treatment system, crane mats, a 20,000-gallon frac tank, two carbon vessels, two sand filter vessels, a 25-kilowatt generator, two oil/water separators, and miscellaneous supplies and equipment.

- Began construction of the water treatment system. Wahconah Welding, a subcontractor to Sevenson, provided a crane and operator for this installation work.

- Installed two-inch telephone conduit from the transformer to the site construction trailers.

- Began installation of phone lines and electrical service to the site construction trailers.

3. SAMPLING/TEST RESULTS RECEIVED

None received.

4. DIAGRAMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE TASKS PERFORMED

Figure 1 is a map of the Phase I area, and includes lot parcel identification numbers, background air sampling locations, the access road location, the water treatment system pad location, the effluent discharge location, and the utility trench location.

5. REPORTS RECEIVED AND PREPARED

Weston received a vibration monitoring summary letter report dated September 9, 2002 from Weston's subcontractor, Geosonics, Inc for the period August 5, 2002 and September 4, 2002. During this period, the seismographic was set up at the Lyman Street Bridge on continuous seismic mode. The maximum ground vibration level reached during this period 0.09 inches per second (ips). This reading occurred on August 23, 2002 at 11:53 a.m. This level is less than 5% of the state's recommended limit of 2.0 ips. All readings during this period complied with State Regulations.

6. PHOTO DOCUMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES PERFORMED

See attached Photos.

7. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF WORK TO BE PERFORMED IN SEPTEMBER 2002

- On the west bank, remove the existing fence from the top of the riverbank and install temporary fencing along the easement lines.
- Clear trees along west bank.
- Build west bank access road.
- Mobilize 250-ton crane for sheetpile installation.
- Receive steel sheetpiling material.

- Construct cell 1 (beneath Lyman Street).
- Drive centerline sheetpile wall to construct cell 2.
- Complete installation of water treatment plant and shakedown system.
- Complete installation of electrical power.
- Set up pumps and influent lines from river to water treatment plant. Set up discharge lines from water treatment plant.
- Construct ramp, stockpile areas, and decontamination pad at Building 65.
- Set up air and water monitoring locations and begin monitoring activities.
- Perform geotechnical and chemical testing of backfill materials to be used for restoration.
- Complete initial settlement monitoring.
- Continue vibration monitoring at Lyman Street bridge.

8. ATTACHMENTS TO THIS REPORT

Table 1. Excavation Quantity Summary Table (note that no soils have been removed since June 2002).

Figure 1- Phase I Site Plan

Photodocumentation